Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A self-centering unit for tire removal machines, comprising a plate ~~(2)~~ provided with a series of angularly equidistant radial slots ~~(4)~~, in each of which a clamping jaw is received and slides to grip the edge of a wheel rim, said clamping jaws being directly linked together ~~in such a manner as to be~~ by a centering means so that said centering means moves all of said clamping jaws together always equidistant from the central axis of said plate, at least one said clamping jaw being ~~associated~~ operably connected with an actuator means causing ~~it~~ said centering means to translate each clamping jaw in a radial direction towards or away from the central axis of the plate, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a positioner device is interposed between said at least one clamping jaw and said actuator means, ~~there is interposed a positioner device~~ the positioner device being arranged to vary [[~~the~~]] a working position of said at least one clamping ~~jaws~~ jaw relative to the actuator means[[,]] without modifying ~~their~~ the travel stroke of remaining clamping jaws.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The self-centering unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein two said actuator means ~~are~~ respectively associated with two opposing clamping jaws.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The self-centering unit as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, ~~characterized by providing~~ further comprising a positioner device for each clamping jaw associated with said actuator means.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The self-centering unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said positioner device comprises a crankshaft provided with a crank~~, of which the~~ having a crankpin, said crankpin is being received in a ~~bush~~ bushing rigid with said clamping jaw and the ~~outer pivots are~~ crank being connected to said actuator means, and means for locking said crankshaft in different working positions.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The self-centering unit as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that said locking means are ~~associated~~ operably connected with said ~~crankshaft~~ crankpin.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The self-centering unit as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that said locking means are ~~associated~~ operably connected with the ~~bush~~ bushing.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The self-centering unit as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that ~~the lateral wall of said bush~~ said bushing is provided with a lateral wall which presents at least two holes angularly spaced apart.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The self-centering unit as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that said means for locking said positioner device in position ~~comprise~~ includes a pin.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The unit as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said pin is elastically maintained inserted in one of the holes present in said ~~bush~~ bushing by the action of a spring.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The unit as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said pin is elastically maintained in a hole present in the crankpin of the crankshaft by the action of a spring.

11. (Currently Amended) A self-centering unit as claimed in ~~claim 7~~ claims 5 and 7, characterized in that said locking means associated with said crankshaft comprise a cup-

shaped body the end of which is provided with a hole, and within which there slides a pin, one end of which is intended to be received in one of the holes of the ~~bush~~ bushing, whereas the opposite end emerges from the cup-shaped body via said hole and is connected to an operating knob, said pin being elastically maintained within one of the at least two holes of the ~~bush~~ bushing by a spring which is mounted about the pin and acts between the end of said cup-shaped body and a shoulder on the pin.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The self-centering unit as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that said locking means associated with the ~~bush~~ bushing comprise a U-shaped latch, the base wall of which presents a rectangular aperture to be received by and to translate on two flat portions of the ~~bush~~ bushing, and the arms of which are provided with a pin and a spring, said pin being normally received in a matching hole in the crankpin of the crank by the action of said spring.

13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The self-centering unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said actuator means for causing the clamping jaws to translate comprise at least one pneumatic cylinder-piston unit.